REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being submitted to insert a claim of priority based on a foreign application into the specification, and to submit claim amendments. The claims presented herein (1-9) are the same as that considered by the International Preliminary Examining Authority in the formation of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability dated November 15, 2005. Claims 10-13 considered in the IPRP are cancelled.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been entered and that the present application is in all respects complete and in condition for favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

Michael N. Mercanti

Reg. No. 33,966

LUCAS & MERCANTI, L.L.P. 475 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016

Phone: 212-661-8000 212-661-8002 Fax:

> "Express Mail" mailing label no. EV 685804807 US Date of Deposit March 16, 2006 I hereby certify that this correspondence and/or fee

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above, in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450".

Michael A. Petrocelli